



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Big Cypress
National Preserve

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Big Cypress National Preserve News Release

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For Immediate Release

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Big Cypress National Preserve Announces Winter Ranger-led Activities

Would you like to see what is beyond the roads in Big Cypress National Preserve? Visitors and residents are invited to join interpretive rangers for canoe trips, swamp walks, bicycle tours and campfire programs to learn more about the area. On swamp walks, rangers lead groups knee deep or deeper into the cypress swamp to explore incredible biological diversity and human history. Canoe trips lead into the watery realm of cypress and mangrove areas. Bicycle trips explore the Bear Island area of the Preserve on old oil roads through hardwood and cypress.

Trips are free of charge but most require reservations to be made in advance by calling the visitor center at 239-695-1201. Instructions for where to meet and what to bring will be given to you when you make reservations.

Swamp Walks are held on Sundays, Mondays and Fridays at 1:00 p.m. Sturdy shoes, long pants plus a change of clothes for the ride home and a sense of adventure are all you need.

Canoe trips are on Saturdays at 10:30 a.m. starting January 4th. Bring your own canoe or use one of ours (space limited). Some canoeing experience is required.

Bicycle Trips are on the fourth Sunday of every month at 1:00 p.m. starting January 26th. Bring your own sturdy bike for these moderately bumpy old roads.

Campfire programs are held on Fridays at Midway Campground and Saturdays at Monument Lake Campground, each at 7:00 p.m. Bring a lawn chair. No reservations required for these programs.

In addition to these programs, Big Cypress National Preserve Visitor Center is open daily between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Stop by to chat with the staff, watch a 15 minute movie about the Preserve and enjoy shopping our book shelves for natural and cultural history materials. The visitor center is located midway between Naples and Miami on scenic Highway 41 (Tamiami Trail). Also visit our website at www.nps.gov/bicy to find a schedule of ranger programs and a great deal more information about the Preserve.

The Preserve may be able to provide a ranger for your special groups as well. With advance notice we can send a ranger to classrooms, activity centers and auditoriums for special programs. We can also arrange for a ranger to lead your group on an adventure in the Preserve. For more information on group programs, call 239-695-1107.

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